

USSN: 10/809,176

Attorney Docket: I-2003.002 US

Response to Office Action of August 15, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A classic infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV) mutant that expresses a VP2 protein that binds with monoclonal antibody (moab) B69, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the VP2 protein also binds with moab 67, secreted by hybridoma cell lines HB-9437 and HB-11122, deposited at the ATCC, Rockville, USA, respectively.
2. (Currently Amended): [A] The classic IBDV mutant according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the VP2 protein binds with moab B69, moab 67 and moab R63, secreted by hybridoma cell line HB-9490, deposited at the ATCC, Rockville, USA.
3. (Currently Amended): [A] The classic IBDV mutant according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the mutant comprises one or more mutations in a classic VP2 coding region, such that the coding region comprises,
 - (i) a codon for the amino acid at position 222 encoding an amino acid selected from the group consisting of serine or and threonine, and
 - (ii) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence ~~shown in any of the SEQ ID. No. 1-5~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID. No. 1, SEQ ID. No. 2, SEQ ID. No. 3, SEQ ID. No. 4 and SEQ ID. No. 5 at positions 318-323.
4. (Currently Amended): A classic IBDV mutant according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the coding region comprises a codon for the amino acid at position 330 encoding an amino acid selected from the group consisting of arginine or and serine.

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5. (Currently Amended): [A] The classic IBDV mutant according to ~~claims 1-4,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the mutant comprises one or more mutations in a VP2 coding region of IBDV strain D78.
6. (Currently Amended): [A] The classic IBDV mutant according to ~~claims 1-5,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the mutant comprises a genomic segment A of a classic IBDV, preferably of IBDV strain D78.
7. (Currently Amended): A vaccine for use in the protection of poultry against disease caused by IBDV infection, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the vaccine comprises a classic IBDV mutant according to ~~claims 1-6~~ claim 1, together with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or diluent.
8. (Currently Amended): [A] The vaccine according to claim 7, ~~characterised in~~ wherein the classic IBDV mutant is in a live form.
9. (Currently Amended): [A] The vaccine according to claim 7 ~~or 8,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ , wherein the vaccine further comprises one or more vaccine components of other pathogens infectious to poultry.
10. (Currently Amended): [A] The vaccine according to ~~[claims 7-9,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ claim 7, wherein the vaccine comprises an adjuvant.
11. (Currently Amended): A method for the preparation of a classic IBDV mutant according to ~~claims 1-6~~ claim 1, characterised in that the classic IBDV mutant is propagated in a cell culture and subsequently harvested from the cell culture.

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12. (Currently Amended): A method for the preparation of a vaccine ~~according to claims 7-10, characterised in that~~ wherein a classic IBDV mutant according to ~~claims 1-6~~ claim 1 is mixed with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent.
13. (Original): A method for the preparation of a classic infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV) mutant that expresses a VP2 protein that binds with monoclonal antibody (moab) B69 and moab 67, secreted by hybridoma cell lines HB-9437, and HB-11122, deposited at the ATCC, Rockville, USA, respectively, characterised in that one or more mutations are introduced in a VP2 coding region of a classic IBDV strain, such that ,
- (i) a codon for the amino acid at position 222 encodes serine or threonine, and
 - (ii) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence for positions 318-323 encodes an amino acid sequence shown in any of the SEQ ID No. 1-5.
14. (Currently Amended): [A] The method according to claim 13, characterised in that the mutation is introduced in the codon for the amino acid at position 222 in a VP2 coding region of a classic IBDV strain that comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1.
15. (Currently Amended): [A] The method according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, characterised in that the VP2 protein also binds with moab R63, secreted by hybridoma cell line HB-9490, deposited at the ATCC, Rockville, USA.
16. (Currently Amended): [A] The method according to ~~claims 13-15~~ claim 13, characterised in that the VP2 coding region comprises a codon for the amino acid at position 330 encoding arginine or serine.

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17. (Currently Amended): [A] The method according to ~~claims-13-17~~ claim 13, characterised in that the one or more mutations are introduced in a VP2 coding region of IBDV strain D78.
18. (Currently Amended): [A] The method according to ~~claims-13-17~~ claim 13, characterised in that the one or more mutations are introduced in a genomic segment A of a classic IBDV, preferably of IBDV strain D78.
19. (Currently Amended): A method for the preparation of a vaccine for use in the protection of poultry against disease caused by IBDV infection, characterised in that a classic IBDV mutant prepared according to a method described in ~~claims-13-18~~ claim 13 is mixed with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent.